



Knife River Indian Villages NHS News Release

Release Date: October 17, 2014

Contact: Craig Hansen, 701-745-3300, craig_hansen@nps.gov

Knife River Indian Villages Hidatsa Earth Lodge Distance Learning Program Receives National Recognition

Stanton, ND: Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is an honored recipient of the coveted Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) Pinnacle Award for the 2013-2014 school year for receiving outstanding scores on program evaluations submitted by educators and end users. Receiving the award indicates remarkable quality of educational content and exceptional skill at program delivery. Because this award is based on input from actual participating teachers and institutions, it serves as a highly regarded objective measure of their ability to meet the needs of students and teachers.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is one of approximately 30 National Park Sites reaching out to a growing number of communities through use of video teleconference technology. Park rangers use video conferencing to deliver education programs from inside of a reconstructed earthlodge or an onsite museum. The program describes the home of the Northern Great Plains Tribes and the roles and responsibilities of people within the community, trade relations and the effects of trade on technology used by the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara during the 1800s.

Demand for distance learning programs is on the rise as more schools become aware of the impact they can have on teaching and learning. Teachers recognize the benefit of live interaction in classrooms in places such as New Jersey, Ohio and Nebraska as one educator's evaluation reflects, "Seeing the artifacts in 'person' made these people and their culture come alive for my students." Moreover nontraditional audiences such as public libraries and retirement communities are requesting programs as they continue to seek out new ways to engage their clientele in intellectually stimulating activities.

Park Superintendent, Wendy Ross, shared her enthusiasm regarding the award. "We have to be innovative in connecting our remote site's story with people outside the state of North Dakota. The use of distance learning equipment brings rangers directly into classrooms where they can share Northern Plains American Indian culture and artifacts through a virtual experience. This award is a tribute to the innovation, creativity, and hard work that goes into each program."

If you have videoconferencing capabilities and are interested in scheduling presentation, contact the park at 701-745-3300.

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.